

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith, Wes Moore, and James McIlroy. Others present were: Sue McKinnon, Winn Fream, Dave Mason, Tom Sherwin, Alicia Sherwin, John Hayden, Mike Sununu, Alison Watts, Chief Reed, Lt. Gould, Jim Vienneau, Jamie Thompson, and Mark Bouzianis.

Sue asked the Selectmen what constitutes a Town Organization. The question came to light because of the fees charged to organizations when renting the Town Hall. Typically, the Celebration Committee and Historical Society are not charged to rent the Town Hall. The church is charged to rent the hall and the Boy Scouts were told they have to pay the same rent.

The Celebration Committee is a Town Organization and should not be charged. The Historical Society should be paying \$50.00, the same as the Friends of the Library, the church, and the Boy Scouts. Janet questioned this. She feels the only organizations should be charged the full rate is the Friends of the Library as they raise funds for a private interest and they church as they “lease” the building for the entire year as they do not have their own building.

Liability Insurance is still required for any person or organization renting the Town Hall.

Alicia Sherwin feels that \$50.00 per use is too high a fee for the Boy Scouts. She checked with other towns and finds that the Boy Scouts are not charged to use town facilities and that they were appalled that a charge is being imposed by Newfields. Sue stated that in the past a \$5.00 per meeting fee has been charged.

The Den meetings are in private homes or the church. The Pack has 23 members and the Town Hall is a good place for the Pack to meet for one and one half hours each month. However, they are non-profit organization and do not have the funds for a \$50.00 per use charge. It was explained that the Town pays for the heat/air conditioning, electricity, and clean-up of the Hall and the fee charged pays a portion of these fees.

Tom Sherwin said that the kids in Town need something to keep them organized and busy. Can the Scouts do something for the Town in order to reduce the fee charged to \$5.00 per use? He suggested maybe trash pickup along the sides of the roads or raking leaves. Wes suggested that they come back to the Town with proposal for community service.

Janet mentioned that the Eagle Scouts have completed a number of projects at no cost to the Town such as: working on the storage shed, Library Clean-up, and roofs on the dugouts at the schoolyard.

Alicia wants the Town to continue to support the Scouts. The Scouts are a huge contribution to the Town. Janet stated that what the Scouts have done already is worth more than \$250. Dave stated that the Scouts have never had to pay the \$50.00 fee in the past 15 years.

Wes suggested that the Town donate the use of the Town Hall to the Scouts next Thursday, November 30, 2006; return the check for \$25.00 to the Scouts and Tom and Alicia return to the Selectmen's Meeting on December 12th with suggestions and a time table for community service. Proof of Insurance is still a requirement (which has been provided by the Scouts). Tom reminded the Selectmen that these are boys in grades one through five and are limited in what they can do.

Alison Watts came to the meeting to discuss the donation of the Daley and Anderson Conservation land to NAWCA. This is currently being reviewed by Town Counsel and will have to go before the Town for a vote to approve or not approve. The Town paid for these conservation easements and could be losing rights with a NAWCA easement donation. Alison asked who would write the warrant articles and was informed also that the Selectmen only vote on warrant articles that include appropriations. The Conservation Commission would have to submit a warrant for the NAWCA easement.

Joe Daley has complained to the Selectmen that people/hunters are trespassing on his property. The property is posted (which is allowed and he is allowed to erect a fence under the easement provisions). His easement is the same as the Gilmore easement and uses can be restricted "from time to time".

Wes feels the Board needs to sit down with Mr. Daley and clarify the easement. Janet and James feel that based on their understanding, the land can be posted per the easement and Mr. Daley would need to contact the proper authorities to report any trespassers.

Alison asked who puts together the Warrant Article. Zoning Ordinances come from the Planning Board. Alison spoke about the prime wetlands and that she needs the Planning Board to agree with the changes because it is actually a change in zoning. There will be a public hearing on December 14th with a new map showing a clear area of "Prime Wetlands". Alison stated that there is no intent to restrict use of property beyond what is already restricted and the buffer area would not change.

There are three tiers of prime wetlands and the Town can choose to pass one tier

at a time or all three tiers. However, if the Town votes to adopt the Prime Wetlands the Town it cannot be changed back. Prime Wetlands designations remain in effect forever. The Conservation Committee recommends the Town pass tiers one and two later. It was suggested that Alison contact the town of Exeter to ask if there have been any repercussions from the wetland designations that they have done.

Eleven properties are in tier 1, 100 plus properties are in tier 2, tier 3 has a very small area involved.

Wes asked if there is any obligation to notify property owners whose land would be affected by the designation or any abutters of the public hearing. Alison stated that it would be a good idea to do so and she will send out the letters to the owners/abutters and perhaps the entire Town. The Selectmen agreed that it is in the best interest of the Town that all abutters and/or property owners of "Prime Wetlands" be notified of the public hearing.

James suggested that the Conservation Commission have a better map before the public hearing and to know exactly what they are asking for.

John Hayden asked if this could be put off for a year. Alison said yes, but all information should be available to the public so they can make an informed decision before the vote is taken.

Wes stated that the Conservation Commission is doing a great job.

A second reading of the Winter Parking Ban was read changing the times from 6:00pm to 7:00am to 11:00pm to 6:00am.

Janet apologized for missing last week's meeting. She did listen to the tapes of the meeting and after that she feels it is in the best interest of the town to stay with Newmarket Dispatch instead of changing over to Rockingham Dispatch.

The Selectmen, Budget Advisory Committee, and Police Department discussed the Police Department Budget for 2007. The Selectmen informed the Chief that they are looking for a flat budget and there was a lot of discussion on how to do it.

Some suggestions made were that only COLA increases be given to employees, that hours be cut back. Mike Sununu recommended an 8 hour shift instead of 10 hour shifts, but there was discussion on whether or not that was possible.

The Chief will work on reducing the budget and meet with the Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee again on December 12th.

The Chief also recommended that the Town pay employees not to take Health

Insurance through the Town if they can obtain insurance through their spouses employer. He stated that the two employees present would opt out of insurance with the Town if a satisfactory payment was offered to them. Janet stated having the employee contribute to their plan by going to an employer/employee split of the insurance premium would produce the same result without having to pay extra money to employees. This is an issue that the Selectmen have investigated before and are working on.

Chief Reed stated that the slate behind the Town Office must be moved as it in the way of the police vehicles. Ray Buxton had offered to move the slate, but then determined it was too heavy for his equipment. John Hayden thought that Brian Knipstein might be able to move it. He then asked if Reuben Hull had returned the granite steps to the Town. At this time, Reuben still has the steps and John offered to help Reuben move the steps.

Chief Reed asked for copies of any letters sent to the prior Newfields Police Officers seeking sick time pay. The letters have not been sent yet, but the Chief will receive copies when they are.

The Budget Advisory Committee asked when the Library needs to get their revised budget back to the Selectmen. It was decided to ask them to have it back by December 12th. Winn stated that the library was responsive to the Board's request and they will make the necessary cuts to their budget.

A Current Use Change Tax form was signed.

The Mosquito Reimbursement request was signed. As the Town voted to put a mosquito plan in place and Newfields was declared an emergency threat in June of last year, the State is going to reimburse the Town approximately \$2,695.00 for mosquito control.

The Notice of Wage Claims from the New Hampshire Department of Labor was reviewed.

James made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2006 Selectmen's Meeting. Janet seconded the motion and it passed with both in favor. The minutes of the November 14th and November 21st meetings were tabled until next week as Wes had to leave tonight's meeting and there was not a quorum to vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer

